

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-21 and 24-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 24 and 25 are amended, claim 31 is added, and claims 22 and 23 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 23 and intervening claim 22. In addition, the subject matter of original claim 8, previously added to claim, is deleted from claim 1. Claims 24 and 25 are amended to depend from claim 1. Added claim 31 recites the subject matter deleted from claim 1. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claim 23 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 23 and intervening claim 22. Thus, claim 1 is allowable. Because claims 2-7 and 9-21 and 24-31 depend from claim 1, these claims also are allowable. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9, 10, 24 and 27, which are not rejected in the Office Action, and which were designated in the January 11, 2007 Office Action as reciting allowable subject matter, are allowable also for the respective features that each of these claims recite.

II. Rejections of the Claims

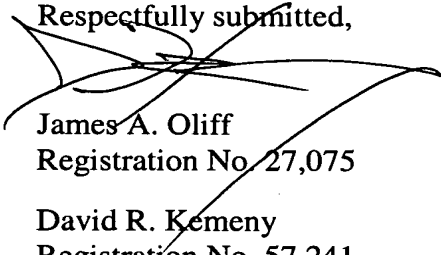
The claim rejections are rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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